

DT09 Rec'd PCT/PTO 25 JUN 2004

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

WATAI, T. et al.

Atty. Ref.: 1207-107; Confirmation No.

Appl. No. To be assigned

Group:

US National Phase of PCT/JP03/00410

Filed: June 25, 2004

Examiner:

For: THRUST SLIDING BEARING

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June 25, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for  
examination, please amend the application as follows: